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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/684,032	10/06/2000	Christopher S. Nolan	420-002	1056

7590

10/29/2002

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EXAMINER

FOX, CHARLES A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3652

DATE MAILED: 10/29/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/684,032

Applicant(s)

NOLAN, CHRISTOPHER S.

Examiner

Charles A. Fox

Art Unit

3652

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 July 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1,2,4-6,9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fell et al. In regards to claim 1 Fell et al. (US 3,951,284) teach a moisture proof liner (20) for a shipping container comprising:

four panels of impervious film to match the top, bottom, and sides of the container;

two end panels to complete the liner;

an access panel in the end of the liner corresponding to the opening of the container that is adapted for loading and unloading cargo;

a closure to seal the liner to protect the cargo from moisture.

While Fell et al. do not teach the opening in the side of the liner it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of invention to place the opening at a location in the liner corresponding to where there is an opening in the container.

In regards to claim 2 Fell et al. further teach tubes (45,48) attached to the access openings of the liner (20).

Regarding claim 4 Fell et al. further teach that the tubes (45,48) are closed with a tie (46) and tucked inside the container (30) during transport.

In regards to claims 5 and 6 Fell et al. also teach access openings for containers having openings on one or more sides depending on the configuration of the container.

Regarding claims 9 and 10 Fell et al. teaches a method of installing a moisture proof liner for a container comprising the steps of:

- providing a liner with four elongated panels and two end panels of impervious material to complete the liner;

- cutting an access opening in the liner;

- positioning and erecting the liner in the container;

- transferring cargo into the container and sealing the liner to protect the moisture against moisture;

- attaching an open ended tube to the access opening of the liner;

- passing cargo through the tube and opening during transfer of the cargo.

While Fell et al. do not teach the method of providing an opening in the side of the liner it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of invention to provide the opening at a location in the liner corresponding to where there is an opening in the container.

Claims 3,7, and 11 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fell et al as applied to claims 1 and 2 above, and further in view of Krein et al.

In regards to claim 3 Fell et al. teach the limitations of claim 2 as above, they do not teach the liner and tubes as being a plastic sheet material joined by heat welding of the

minating surfaces. Krein et al. (US 5,028,197) teach a plastic liner with joints that are fused together using heat. See column 5 lines 43-57.

In regards to claim 7 the limitations of claim 1 are met by Fell et al. as above, they do not specifically teach the liner as having gussets. However it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of invention that gussets would be formed on the liner during the course of folding the liner and that the gussets would disappear as the liner was inflated.

In regards to claim 11 the limitations of claim 10 are met by Fell et al. as above. Fell et al. do not teach holding the upper corners of the tube to offer protection during transfer of cargo. Fell et al. do teach supporting the tube during loading and unloading with a stand (47) and a chute (44). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of invention that the supports for the tube taught by Fell et al. could be modified in many ways depending on the size of the tube and the nature of the cargo being transferred onto or off of the container.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fell et al. in view of Krein et al. as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of Derby. Fell et al. in view of Krein et al. teach the limitations of claim 7 as above they do not teach the end panels as being gusseted. Derby US 5,746,862 teaches using a liner for a container with panels having gussets (22,24). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of invention to provide the gussets taught Derby on the liner taught by Fell et al. in view of Krein et al. in order to allow easy storage of the liner when not in use as well as making deployment of the liner easier.

Response to Amendment

The amendments to the specification filed on July 31, 2002 have been entered into the record.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles A. Fox whose telephone number is 703-605-4294. The examiner can normally be reached between 7:00-5:00 Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen D. Lillis can be reached at 703-308-3248. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-7687 for regular communications and 703-305-7687 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

CAF
October 24, 2002



**KATHY MATECKI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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